

# Taos County FSA Newsletter



*January/February 2010*

## 2009 County Committee Elections

Taos County Committee Election for LAA 1A, - Questa Area and surrounding communities was held on December 8, 2008 at 9:30 AM. Congratulations to **Amos Martinez**, your newly elected County Committee member for Taos County. He will serve his term (3 years) on the Farm Service Agency, County Committee representing the communities of the Questa area. Thank you to all eligible voters who mailed or brought in election ballots and participated in this year's election to make it a successful 2009 County Committee election.

## Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

This program assists farmers and ranchers with 50% or more crop losses, due to weather conditions on insured crops. The deadline is **January 31, 2010**, to purchase crop insurance of the following crops: **Alfalfa, Cucumbers, Grass, Mixed Forage, Pecans, and Peppers**. The cost per crop is \$250 or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of 1, 875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Producer may be eligible for a waiver if they meet both requirements of the two previous years had total gross farm sales less than \$142,000 per year and have a total household income before deductions at or below the national poverty level of \$22,050 for Taos County.

Please keep in mind, to be eligible for participating in future disaster programs you must have, purchased NAP coverage for program benefits.



## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

This program provides benefits for **crop year 2008** because of the USDA Secretarial Designation. Crop losses with an actual production loss less than **50% of the normal production, due to natural disasters** are eligible for benefits; it is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to prior ad hoc disaster programs. In order for producers to be eligible, **they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance** for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurable Act or FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). This program does not cover crops intended for grazing. Sign up started **January 4, 2010, no deadline date** as of yet has been announced. Producer(s) who did not purchase crop insurance for 2008, may still be able to obtain insurance for the SURE program if they meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantage", "Limited Resource", or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher". The payment Limitation is \$100,000 which applies to the combination of payments from the livestock disaster programs-Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP). For 2008 SURE payments, payments are limited per "person" according to payment limitation rules in effect for 2008.



**Taos County FSA Office****224 C Cruz Alta Road****Phone: (575) 758 – 3863 Ext 2****Taos, NM 87571****FAX: (575) 758 - 7650**

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**Outreach Event**

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, February 26, 2010, 1:00 -5:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 27, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** for a 2 day forum to bring hands on demonstration projects, tools and resources to livestock producers. To discuss Land and Water Conservation tools, Risk Management Services, Marketing Opportunities, Offal Composting Demo, **Tour Cut and Wrap** in the Mobile Livestock Slaughtering Unit known as the **Mobile Matanza**, also sample local meat. Location at the Taos County Economic Development Corporation Business Park at **1021 Salazar Road in Taos, NM.**

**Reasonable Accommodation Statement**

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call this office at (505) 758-3683 Ext. 2.

**Office Closures**

This month the office will be closed to the public on February 15, 2010, in observance of President's Day.

**Office Staff**

Anna Martinez, County Executive Director

Susanah Griego, Program Technician

**County Committee**

Aaron Eichwald, Chairperson

Amos Martinez, Vice-Chairperson

Crestina Trujillo-Armstrong, Member

John Mirabal, Advisor

**Office Hours 7:00 – 4:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays****Monthly Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or become all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is equal opportunity provider and employer.

El Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA) prohíbe la discriminación en sus programas y actividades basadas en la raza, color de piel, lugar de origen, sexo, religión, edad, minusvala, creencias políticas, orientación sexual y estado civil. (No todas las prohibiciones se aplican a todos los programas.) Las personas con minusvalas que require medios de comunicacion alternativas (Braille, literature en letra de mayor tamaño, cintas/audio, etc.) deben comunicarse con el programs TARGET Del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (Voz o Teletexto).

Para procesar quejas sobre cualquier tipo de dicriminacion escriba a USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 o llame al (202) 720-5964 (Voz o Teletexto). El USDA proporciona oportunidades y empleos con igualdad.